

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2010

The Town Board public hearing and agenda meeting held on 12/07/2010 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Supervisor Don Barber.

Attendance:

Don Barber, Supervisor Present
Dominic Frongillo, Councilman Absent
Linda Adams, Councilwoman Present
Toby McDonald, Councilman Present
Pete Hoyt, Councilman Present

Recording

Secretary: Jo Ann Reinhardt, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: Lawrence Slack and Sharon Garland

Privilege of the Floor

Public hearing started at 7:05 p.m. regarding the local law of dog licensing for the Town of Caroline. In the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Larry Slack informed the Board & Supervisor that he attends to listen about the local law regarding the dog licensing for the Town of Caroline. Mr. Don Barber explained why the Town of Caroline needed to develop a local law of dog licensing. The NYS Agriculture & Market is no longer responsible for processing dog licenses because of budget changes as January 1, 2011. All towns and cities of New York State are required to adopt legislation of a local law for dog licenses. Don commented that they are not setting the fees in the local law. The Town Board will need to discuss a resolution tonight and gather that information for next week's meeting. The Town already has a dog control law in place. This new dog licensing law is not to supersede or conflict with the dog control law. Don proceeded with asking Larry if he had any comments or questions about the dog licensing local law. Larry said, he got a license from the Town of Caroline because he thought it was the right thing to do. He thinks it is a good thing that we are doing this. Larry knows part of this was the state and if they cannot do it, someone has to do it. He thinks it is important for the sake of health, rabies and things of that nature. It was not big fee, a couple of dollars. Even if it's five dollar, it is not a big deal because I know my neighbors should be doing the same thing and they know I am doing it. Therefore, we are all somewhat comforted, I think by doing the right thing.

Don commented Agriculture & Market is not involved in licensing dogs any longer; no State wide database. There were reasons the State required dogs to be licensed, two of the main ones are if dogs were hurting livestock the authorities needed to find a way to locate the owner of the dog and the other reason is being able to identify the dog and if to see if the rabies vaccination was current or not. It is required by the owner of the dog to buy a dog license for public health reasons.

Larry made additional comments of we should continue and it is very reasonable fee. Larry is glad we are picking it up and sorry the State has budget issues. Don said that our County is working together with other towns of the sequencing of numbers on the dog tags in each town. In case a dog is lost, we should not have an issue in finding the dog without going through a lot. Every municipality is doing this. Larry suggested getting a hold of all the vets in regards to the injection of a microchip database of all dogs and the vet has to do is wave a wand over the dog's body to identify him. We might want to contact all the vets and Pet smart, who sell the chip to non-profit business so that we could benefit the database. Larry suggested that this is the time to make changes to the local law any way we want. He is glad we are doing it.

Don announced that the Town Board will be holding another public hearing next Tuesday, December 14, 2010 and voted on the identical proposed local law with the a section regarding purebred licensing added to it. We did not have enough information at the time before this public hearing and now we do have all needed information in order to add the changes to the proposed local law of dog licensing.

Larry asked how long does the license last? One year, and yes, is the answer and the fees may change as the first of the year. In addition, Larry asked "If the town clerk's office would they notify dog owner's regarding the license expiring"? Again, the answer is yes.

Don commented that the dog license renewal letter and all the follow-up going to be handled by the same office rather than the Ag. & Market sending out a part of the process. Larry commented that there should be no excuse and everyone should get on board with this. Will the constable be authorized to check for dog licensing, I assume, the police would be able to look at the dog and check & see a license and can ask. Don commented that the typical person who would pick up the dog(s) is the dog control officer approved by the County and SPCA. He would make sure the dog taken care of and check the rabies vaccination information and current dog licensing with the owner. We are not doing any thing different that we are required to take care of the administration part of licensing. We are trying to make it seamless. Linda Adam agreed with Don Barber. Linda also commented that the fact we follow the Ag. & Market to the word. Larry asked if there been any feedback from the public, negative or what? We can feed off that the precedence and not introduce any new flavors and the lower the fee so the better chance the dog owners will come in and license their dog(s) if they have multiple dogs. It is a public health issue and we want to make it as less of an impact (painless) on their budget so that people are able to comply. The question was asked by Larry is "How many licensing have we sold?" Don gave a total of over 600 licensing sold in the Town. Larry commented on positives of how successful the process is going and he is glad it is successful.

Public hearing discussion was closed at 7:16 P.M.

At 7:23 p.m., the Public Hearing reopened for Sharon Garland had arrived at that time to hear regarding the purebred licensing and rescued dogs sheltered at her dog kennel.

Sharon is the owner of twenty dogs which three are dogs that were rescued. She is a registered Kennel owner. Sharon expressed that she is in favor of the SPCA services. The Town Board is setting licensing fees next week or at the end of December's board meeting. Dog enumerator is starting this upcoming weekend. It will take a few months before he is complete with the dog census.

Peter continued to question what to charge for dog licensing. The board discussed in details of many options of fees to be charged for the 2011 year. No decision was made among the board members. Toby proposing to hold off on the purebred fee added until we have more information. The proposed dog licensing local law is next Tuesday, December 14, 2010.

Sharon also explained her situation of her dog kennel business. She was wondering if her rescued dogs would be exempt from licensing because they will be adopted out of her kennel in the near future. Don informed her that the original dog licensing law does not define or allow any rescued dogs to be exempt from purchasing a dog license. She understood the law and she is in support of the local dog law.

Public hearing was called to an end at 7:49 p.m.

Town Business:

The discussion with the board members continued regarding dog purebred licensing. Toby McDonald and Don Barber explained the whole purebred licensing process to Peter Hoyt. Peter made a suggestion to have a siding scale fee in place for owners of several dogs. Purebred fees were discussed among the board members and no decision was made. The SPCA dog control fees are mandated that the Town pay yearly. Don explained regarding all the administrative cost and process that is our responsibility as of January 1, 2011.

Reports

Toby McDonald, Town Board

Toby reported in meeting with the teamster representatives regarding the insurance coverage.

Board members went into an executive session at 7:54 p.m.

Executive discussion ended at 8:31 P.M.

Cindy Whittaker, Highway Supervisor

Highway report attached.

Dominic Frongillo, Town Board

Absent

Peter Hoyt, Town Board

Peter attended a meeting for the Recreation Partnership with the Ithaca City Youth Bureau. In order to get citizens involved in the program by donations is through the friends of the Youth Bureau. Peter gave a report on the possibilities of donating to the Recreation Programs.

Linda Adams, Town Board

Linda made a suggestion regarding the possibility of the Food Pantry setting up an escrow account to have monies available for the future spending for supplies. The money could be earning interest for a long-term period. Also someone would need to look into the legal entity of keeping an account to use for future purchases in stocking up supplies for the distribution to the public.

Agenda

Attorney Contract

Contract with the Slaterville Ambulance

Dog License Fee Resolution

Public Hearing potentially adopting dog license law

Set up meeting to pay end of year abstracts

Organizational meeting January 4, 2011

Subdivison

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Public Hearing and Agenda Meeting 11/04/2010

A motion was made by Don and seconded by Linda to accept the minutes of November 4, 2010 as amended and submitted by the town clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

Minutes of Business Meeting 11/09/2010

A motion was made by Don and seconded by Don to accept the minutes of November 9, 2010 as amended and submitted by the deputy town clerk.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

Resolutions

Resolution 12-01 of 2010

Title: Public Hearing on December 14, 2010 on amendment of dog license local law adding purebred license & fees

By Don; Seconded by Toby

The Town Board sets a public hearing date on the proposed dog licensing local law for December 14, 2010 at 7:00pm to hear any and all comments on the amendment to include purebred dog licenses.

Adopted Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Absent; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

Adjourn

On a motion by Don Barber and seconded by Peter Hoyt, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M. all members in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Ann Reinhardt,
Deputy Town Clerk